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THE MANGO BIRDS


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National Book Trust, India

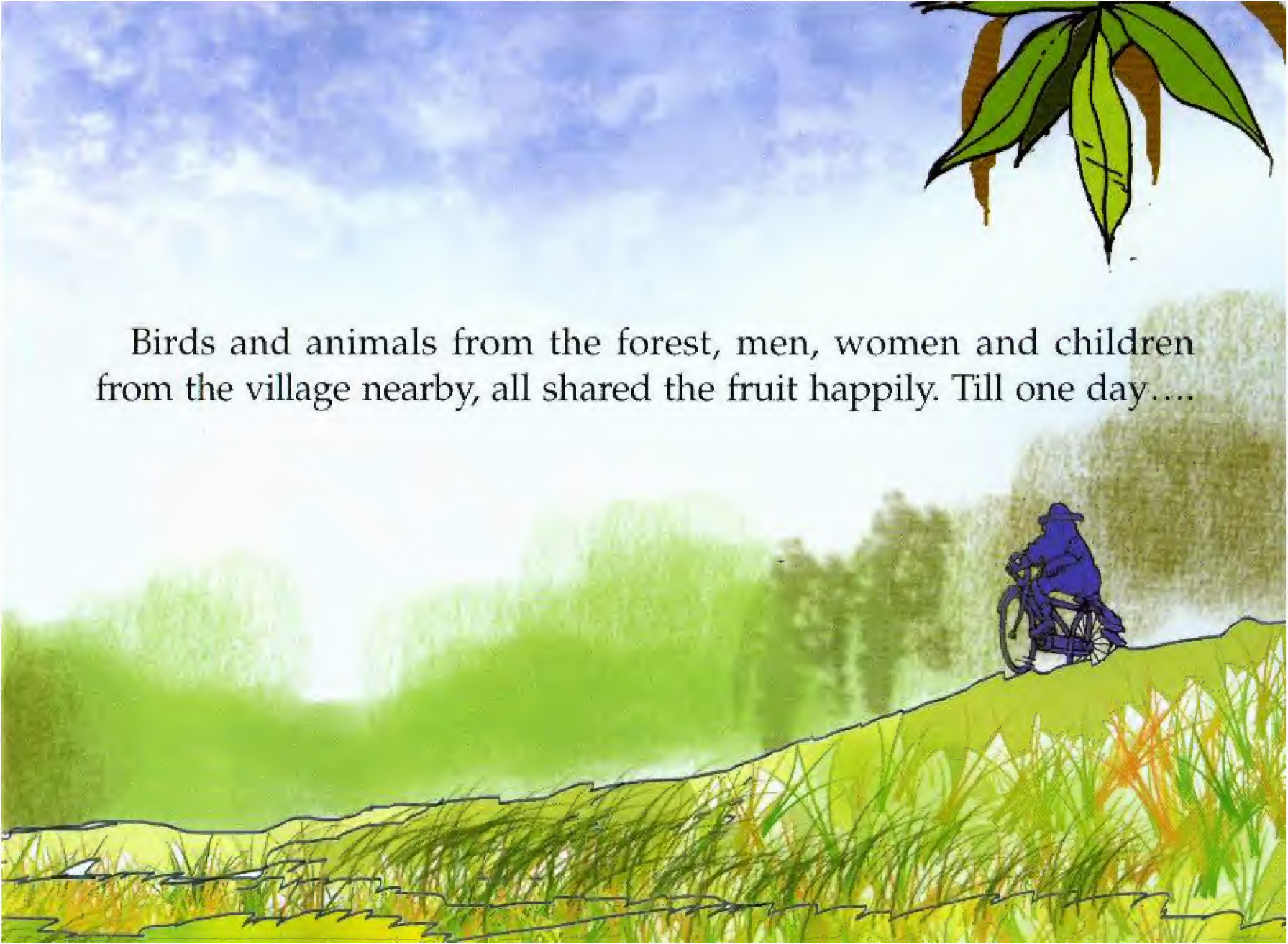




Once, a mango tree grew right in the middle of a forest. It was a wild tree and did not belong to anyone. So everybody shared the juicy fruit that grew on it.

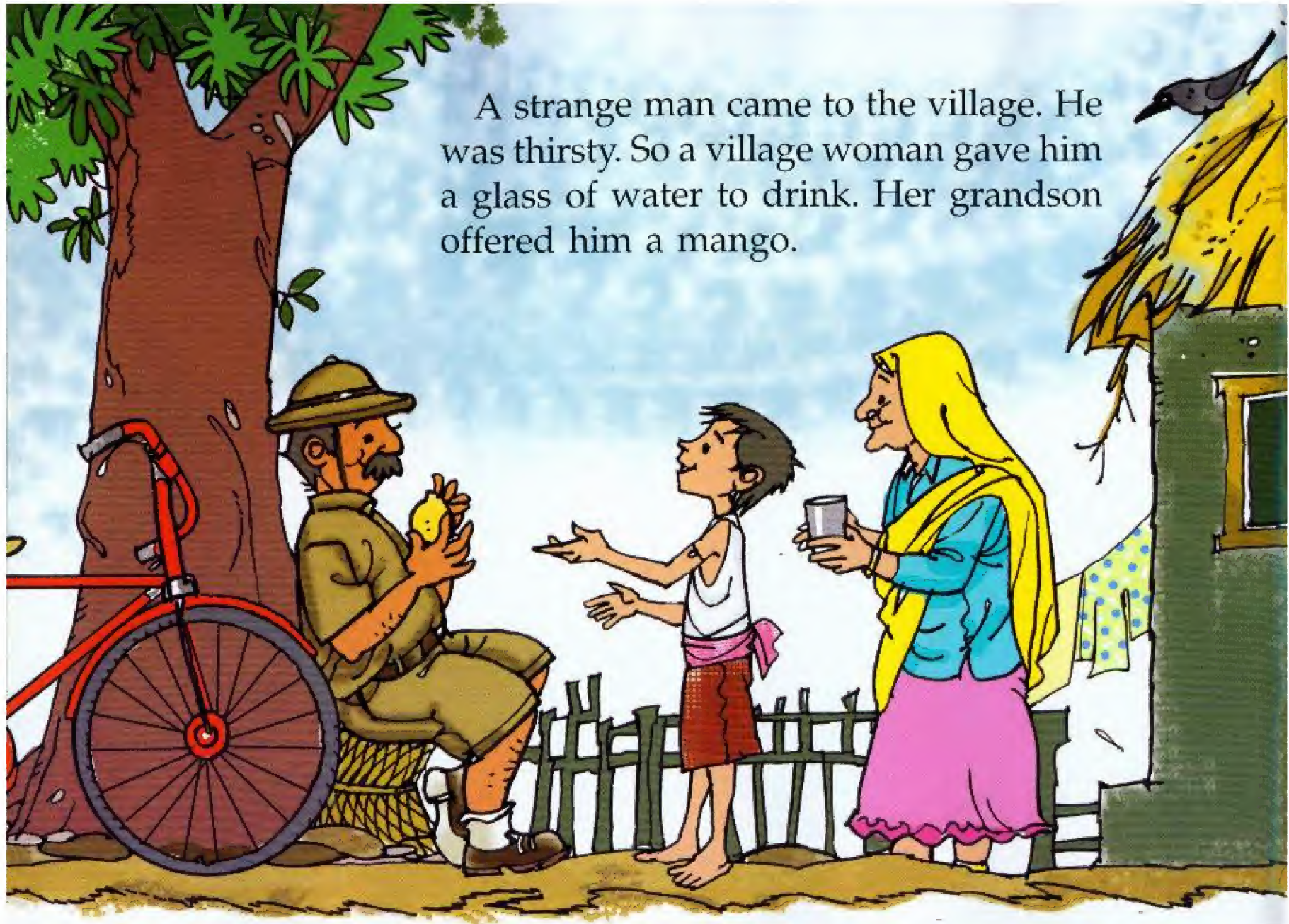






Birds and animals from the forest, men, women and children from the village nearby, all shared the fruit happily. Till one day....

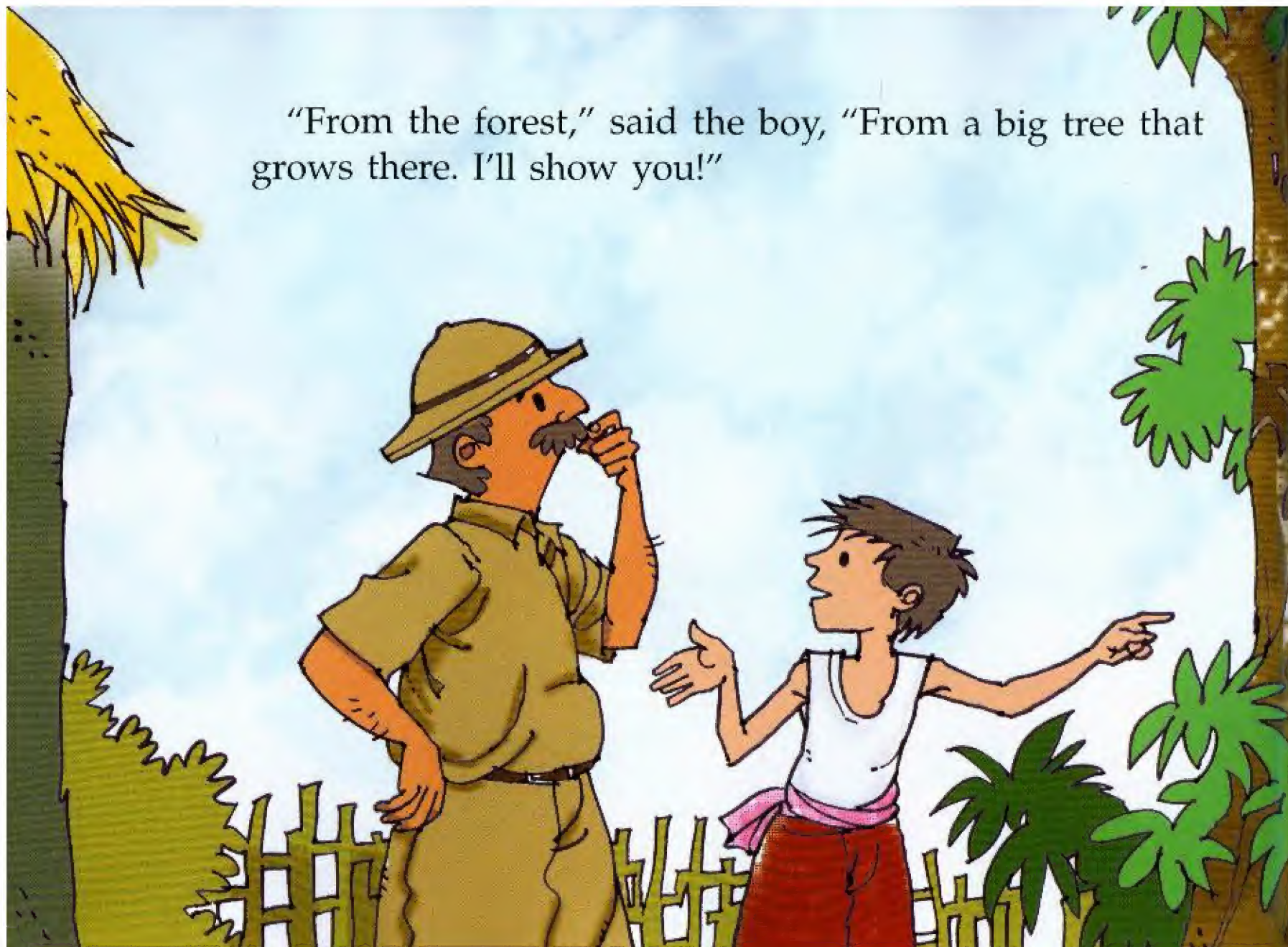
A strange man came to the village. He was thirsty. So a village woman gave him a glass of water to drink. Her grandson offered him a mango.



"Mmm...mm. These are the best mangoes I've eaten.
From where did you get them?"

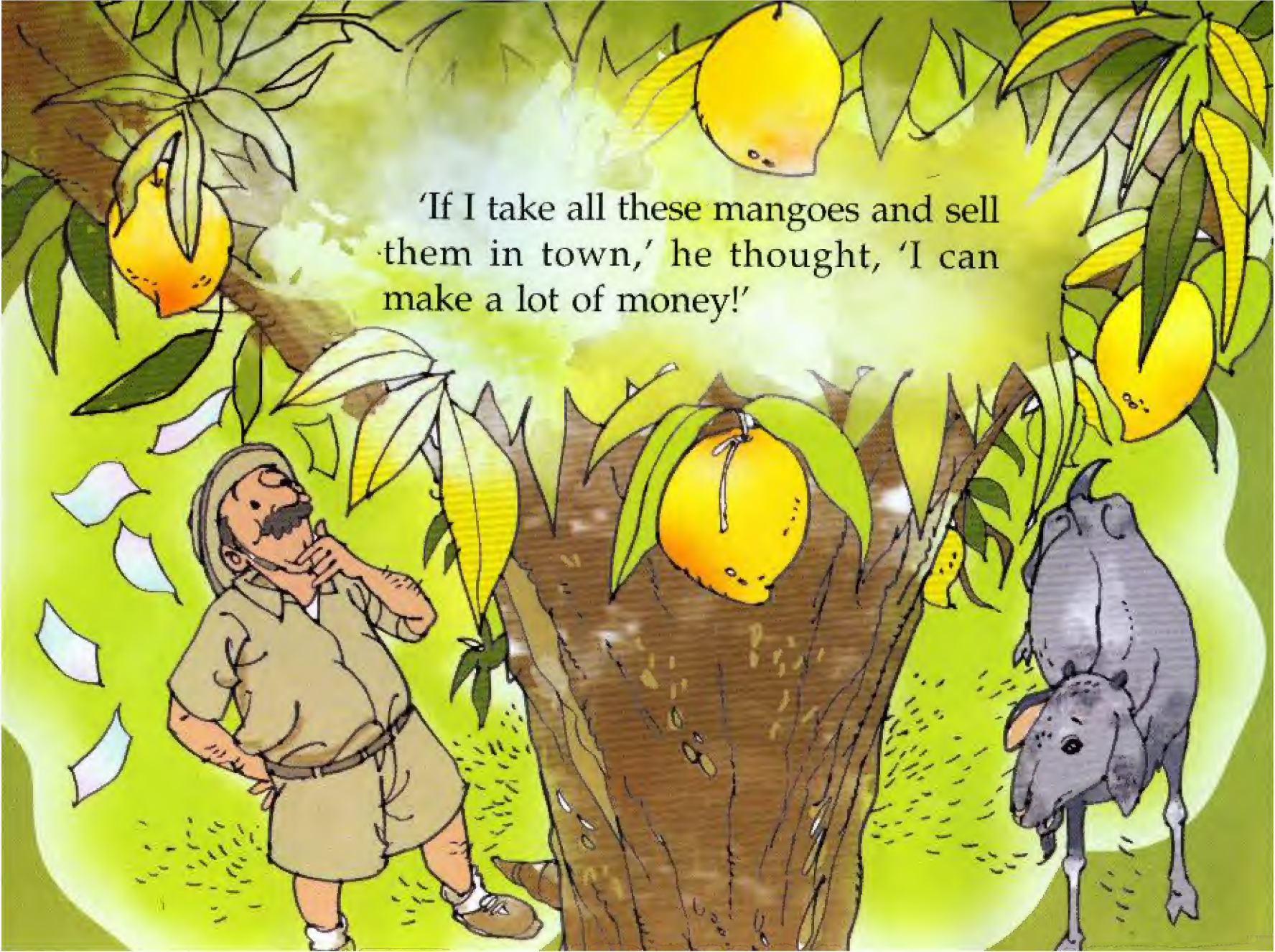


"From the forest," said the boy, "From a big tree that grows there. I'll show you!"



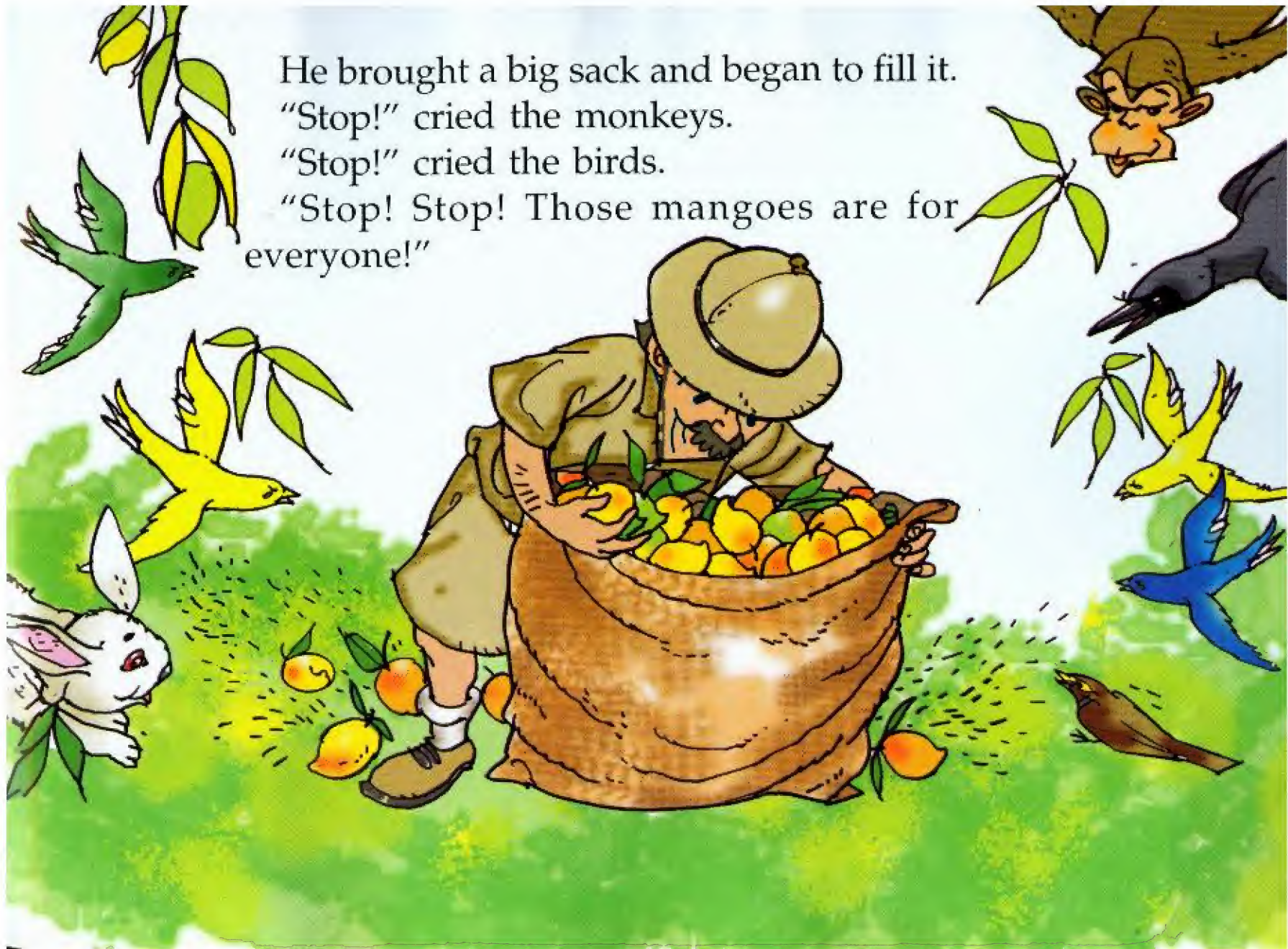


The man saw the mango tree full of juicy fruit. He got an idea....

A colorful illustration of a man with a beard and a turban, wearing a brown tunic and sandals, standing under a large mango tree. He is looking up at the tree with a thoughtful expression, his hand on his chin. The tree is laden with ripe yellow mangoes. A grey cow is standing to the right of the man, looking towards him. The background is a bright yellow-green, suggesting a sunny day. The text is written in a simple, black, sans-serif font, centered in the upper part of the image.

'If I take all these mangoes and sell them in town,' he thought, 'I can make a lot of money!'

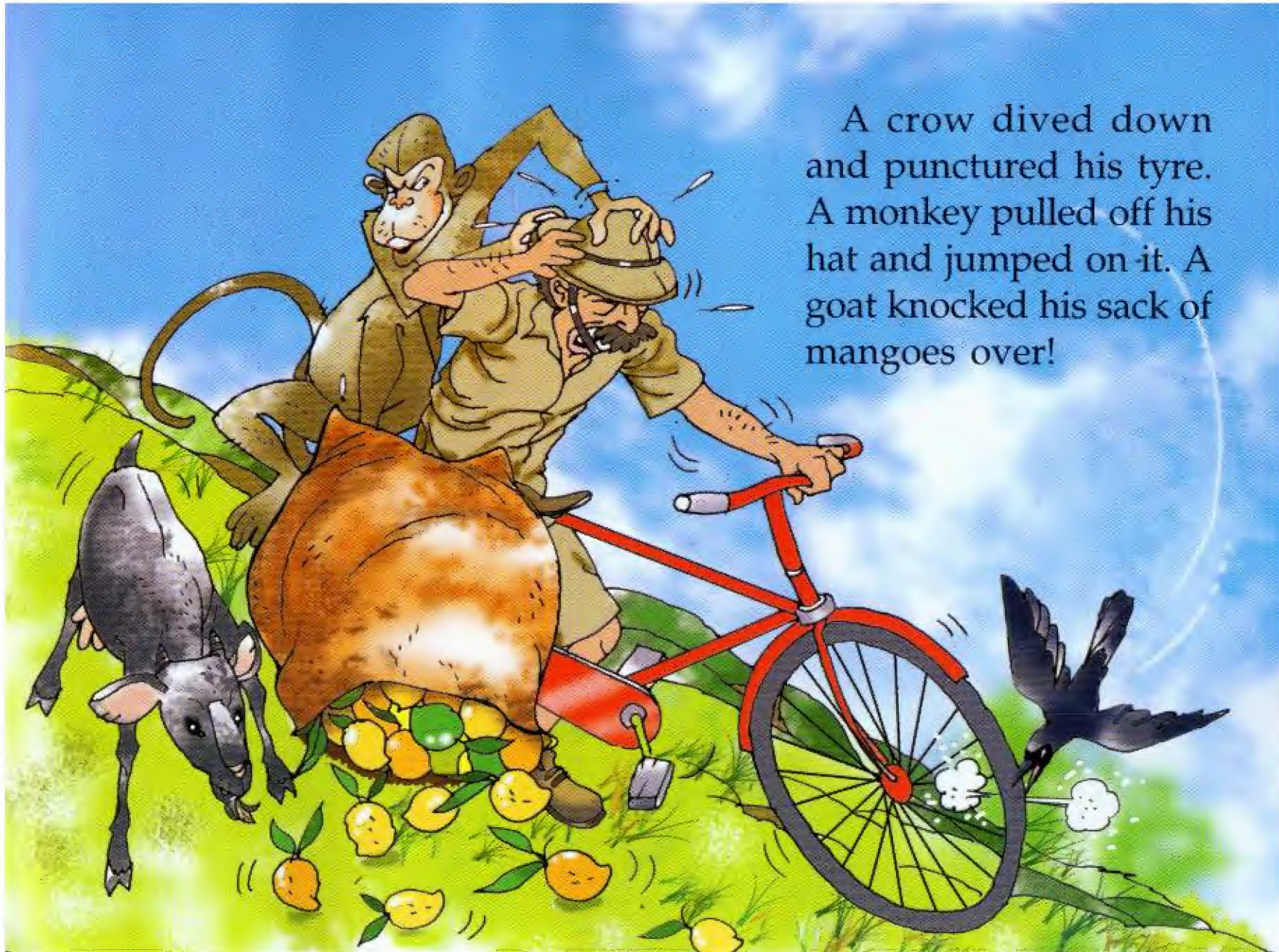
He brought a big sack and began to fill it.
"Stop!" cried the monkeys.
"Stop!" cried the birds.
"Stop! Stop! Those mangoes are for
everyone!"



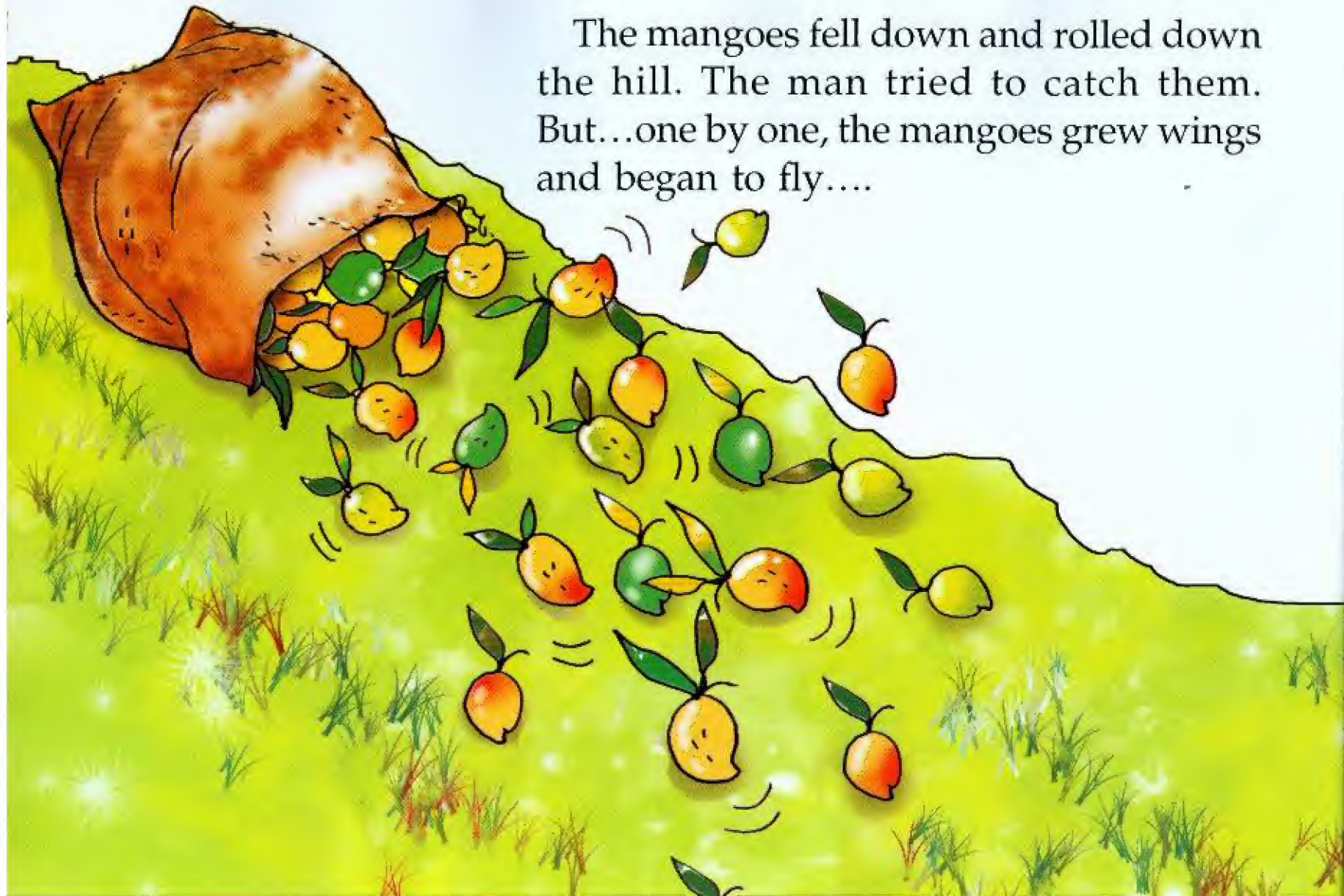
But the greedy man did not stop. He filled his sack. Then he put it on his bicycle. He was all ready to go, when....



A crow dived down
and punctured his tyre.
A monkey pulled off his
hat and jumped on it. A
goat knocked his sack of
mangoes over!

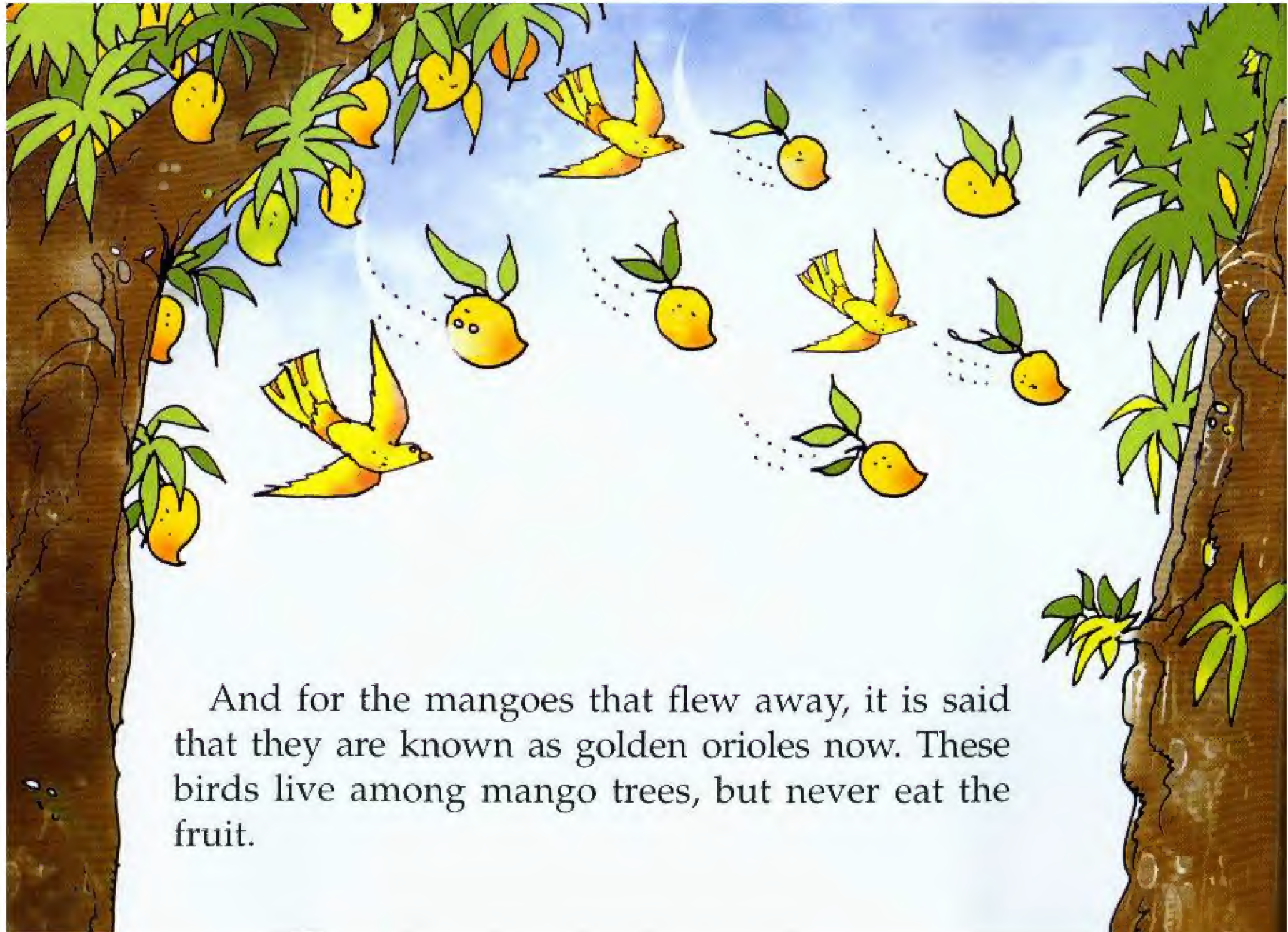


The mangoes fell down and rolled down the hill. The man tried to catch them. But...one by one, the mangoes grew wings and began to fly....



The greedy man watched helplessly. Then he jumped on his bicycle and pedalled away. Everyone was happy to see him go. Now they could share the mangoes happily again.





And for the mangoes that flew away, it is said that they are known as golden orioles now. These birds live among mango trees, but never eat the fruit.





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